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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): A computerized freight management method for arranging for shipment of a load from a shipper by a carrier, based on shipping data and carrier data supplied by the shipper and the carrier, respectively, or for arranging for the buying or selling of a product, wherein the product comprises either a good or service, based on buyer data and seller data supplied by the buyer and the seller, respectively, the method comprising:

inputting into the central processing system a request for bids from and by the shipper for shipping the load or from and by a buyer for purchasing a product;

electronically transmitting an invitation to bid for shipping the load or purchasing a product from and by the central processing system to a plurality of carriers;

electronically receiving bids at the central processing system from and by at least some of the carriers for shipping the load or from and by the sellers for selling a product;

electronically transmitting to the shipper a bid report with bids received from at least some of the carriers or some of the sellers receiving the invitation to bid from and generated by the central processing system; and

electronically receiving at the central processing system from and by the shipper or from and by the buyer a bid selection of at least one of the bids.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of responding to the bid selection by the shipper by the central processing system electronically transmitting a name and a phone number of the corresponding one of the carriers to the shipper.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the invitation to bid is first transmitted from the central processing system to a third party, who then communicates the invitation to bid to a plurality of carriers in locations remote from the central processing system; and

    wherein the bids for at least some of the carriers are electronically received at
        the central processing system as inputted from and by the third party.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the step of electronically transmitting an invitation to bid further includes electronically transmitting invitations for bids for a plurality of loads from and by the central processing system to an individual carrier.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the step of electronically transmitting to the shipper a plurality of bids further includes electronically transmitting to the shipper bids for a plurality of loads from a plurality of carriers from and by the central processing system.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A computerized method of buying or selling a product wherein the product comprises either a good or a service, the method comprising:

making a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers available to a

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plurality of sellers on the computer system for electronic access by the sellers;

making a plurality of bids from a plurality of sellers available to buyers on said computer system for electronic access by the buyers;

in response to receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of sellers for a product requested by a buyer, making an analysis of the bids and generating a first report that ranks the bids according to at least one predetermined criterion stored in the computer system; and

transmitting the first report to the buyer without the buyer ~~having to initiate~~ initiating communication with the computer system; ~~and~~

wherein the buyer can select one of the bids and communicate an acceptance to the computer system, which will then notify the other party of the communication to complete the sale.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein in response to receiving a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers, making an analysis of the offers to invitations to bid and distributing the invitations to bid to sellers according to at least one predetermined criterion ~~stores~~ stored in the computer system; and

transmitting the second report to the seller without the seller ~~having to initiate~~ initiating communication with the computer system.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein forms containing the invitations to bid can be stored in the computer system, and revised with indicators by adding a letter suffix to the system number to save re-inputting the forms [[to]] into the computer system.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid can be imported in large numbers from existing computer databases through the use of electronic transfer programs.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein a duplicate of an invitation to bid on the computer system is transmitted from the computer system to a third party intermediary;

> wherein the third party intermediary is unable to change any data or
> information of the original invitation to bid except for the list of potential
> sellers for receiving the resulting request to buy from the third party
> intermediary; and

> ~~wherein~~ indicating on the computer system ~~indicates on~~ an original of the
> invitation to bid and on the duplicate that they are being communicated to
> potential sellers at the same time.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of buyers available to a plurality of sellers on the computer system for electronic access by the buyers includes making loads available to carriers on an electronic bulletin board accessed through the computer system; ~~and~~

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wherein making a plurality of bids by a plurality of sellers available to buyers
on said computer system for electronic access by the sellers buyers
includes making prospective scheduled carriers available to shippers on an
electronic bulletin board accessed through the computer system [[(10)]].

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the
invitations to bid are provided by transportation shippers; and

wherein the bids are provided by transportation carriers; and

wherein the computer system electronically selects invitations to bid or bids in
groups of seven and orders the bids or invitations to bid based on price
and other factors.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the reports
to the buyer are accessible on the computer system through a carrier bulletin
board and the reports to the seller are accessible on the computer system
through a shipper bulletin board.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising
maintaining a master bulletin board of all data on the computer system which
further comprises publicly accessible shipper bulletin boards and publicly
accessible carrier bulletin boards and private access networks that have limited
access.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising
bulletin boards with line items including items for sale and line item link buttons

on said bulletin boards for directly accessing other data provided by the buyers and sellers.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein available transportation equipment and planned trips, as well as loads, warehousing, products and services can be entered into the system all likened to a load with qualifications and descriptions as line items in lists of items and/or with descriptive prefixes.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid and bids transmitted to the buyers and sellers, respectively, do not indicate the identity of the buyers and the sellers, respectively, thereby allowing anonymity of each and requiring selections to be based on individual qualifications and price.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further characterized in invitations to bid and bids transmitted to the buyers and sellers, respectively, do not indicate the identity of the buyers and the sellers, respectively, do indicate the identity of the buyers and the sellers, respectively as the participants are already associated with or contracted to each other, thereby eliminating the need for anonymity.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein a third party can initially submit a bid to a buyer of $0.00 or use a decline button indicating that for whatever reason the request to buy has been reviewed but has been declined, or the third party can initially bid $1.00 or use an accept button to indicate that the reviewed request to buy will be handled and that the final bid

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and/or rate will be forthcoming, so that the buyer will not have to submit the request to buy to another carrier.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein bids by sellers for re-locating empty containers can be positive dollar amounts, zero or negative dollar amounts which would indicate that the seller would pay the buyer to move the empty container.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted by facsimile as facsimile data files and are converted on a receiving end using an optical character recognition program.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted over the Internet.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein invitations to bid, bids and reports are transmitted in a data file via e-mail.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the invitations to bid, bids and reports are created through interactive voice response.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of inputting carrier profile data into computer system, wherein the carrier data includes carrier identification data, carrier contact data, carrier service area data, carrier intermodal capabilities data, carrier load type services data, carrier type data, carrier annual revenue data, carrier employee size data, carrier on-

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time and damage-free delivery ratings data, carrier equipment data, carrier special services data, carrier commodities hauled data, carrier financial condition data, carrier hazardous license data, carrier driver data, carrier insurance data, and carrier rules and charges data.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the invitation to bid [[(19)]] can be compared with seller profile data previously input to the computer system to select a group of qualified sellers to receive the invitation to bid.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising inputting buyer profile data into the computer system, wherein the buyer data includes buyer identification data, buyer contact data, buyer annual revenue data, buyer number of employees, and buyer financial data.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the invitation to bid includes buyer qualifications to make a bid.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising individual buyer and seller bulletin boards which can be customized by the buyers and sellers to the requirements of the buyers and sellers, respectively.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising displaying multiple windows providing the display of a plurality of bulletin boards including at least two of the following: a bulletin board for transportation loads, a bulletin board for available transportation equipment, a bulletin board for trips, a bulletin board for products, and a bulletin board for warehousing services.

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Claim 62 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising private access networks with access to the computer system, each private access network requiring input of individual member numbers and authorization codes for access to the computer system.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A computerized freight management system for arranging for shipment of a load from a shipper by a carrier, based on shipping data and carrier data supplied by the shipper and the carrier, respectively, or for arranging for the buying or selling of a product, wherein the product comprises either a good or service, based on buyer data and seller data supplied by the buyer and the seller, respectively, the system comprising:

a central processing system;

means for making a plurality of invitations to bid from a plurality of shippers
    available to a plurality of carriers as a carriers bulletin board on
    the computer system for electronic access from the central processing
    system by the carriers or from a plurality or buyers available to a plurality
    of sellers as a sellers bulletin board on the computer system for electronic
    access from the central processing system by the sellers;

means for making a plurality of bids from a plurality of carriers available to
    shippers on said computer system as a shipper's bulletin board for
    electronic access from the central processing system by the shippers or
    from a plurality of sellers available to buyers on said computer system as a
    buyer's bulletin board for electronic access from the central processing
    system by the buyers;

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said shipper's bulletin board and said carrier's bulletin board are integrated
together into a master bulletin board on the central processing system
or said buyer's bulletin board and said seller's bulletin board are integrated
together into a master bulletin board on the central processing system that
is publicly accessible of which can be viewed by a member of the
public; and

wherein said master bulletin board also includes private bulletin boards that
are only accessible by a limited number of parties having proper
identification and passwords for access.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The freight management system of claim 63,
wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing
unit and a communication interface to the Internet.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The freight management system of claim 63,
wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing
unit, a memory for storing a database of shipper profile data and carrier profile
data, and a communication interface to the Internet.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The freight management system of claim 63,
wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing
unit, a memory for storing a database of shipper profile data and carrier profile
data along with all of the individual load, equipment, product, services and the
resulting transactional process and system, network, site integration data, and a
communication interface to the Internet.

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Claim 67 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the central processing system includes at least one central processing unit, a memory for storing a database of shipper profile data and carrier profile data along with all of the individual load, equipment, product, services and the resulting transactional process and system, network, site integration data, and a communication interface to the Internet.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the central processing system and/or database is located on and/or remote from the Internet.